

QUESTION RE "DAY OF THE LORD," "DAY OF GOD," "DAY OF CHRIST"
Taught by Willis E. Bishop

(From Study in Ezekiel)

In Ezekiel chapter 30 verse 3 there is a term which we should pay attention to.

Verses 2 and 3: Son of man, prophesy and say, "Thus saith the Lord God, 'Wail, alas for the day, for a day is near, even a day of the Lord is near, a day of clouds, a day of nations.'"

There is a term in the middle of the verse, "a day of the Lord." Many premillennialists are erroneous in the use of that term in that every time they read "day of the Lord" they immediately think of the judgment in connection with Armageddon. That is not so. Let us consider some of the terms.

There is "the day of God," II Peter 3:10-12: But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night in which the heavens will pass away with a rushing sound and the elements will melt with fervent heat. Both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be broken up, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and holy godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be broken up and on fire and the elements will melt, being burned up. Nevertheless, we look for His promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Peter uses the term "the day of God" (verse 12) to speak of the time when the new heavens and the new earth will be established. Verse 13 makes that very clear. The time of the establishment of the new heavens and the new earth is known as the day of God.

Then, "the day of Christ," I Corinthians 1:7: So that you come short in no gift in the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you until the end that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The "day of our Lord Jesus Christ" (verses 7 and 8) relates to the the Rapture and the Judgment Seat of Christ. It is called in Scripture "the day of Christ" or "the day of our Lord Jesus Christ."

The "day of the Lord," the phrase in Ezekiel 30. It is any day that the Lord comes in judgment. Any day the Lord comes in judgment is a day of the Lord. That includes the end-time judgment, spoken of as "the great and terrible day of the Lord." In reading the term "day of the Lord" you need to pay attention to the context in order to determine exactly what is intended.

For example, Joel, in chapter 1 verse 4, describes a terrible devastation that has taken place in the land of Israel. (Incidentally,

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the way the Hebrew terms are used vary according to the translation, but the same idea is present.)

Verse 4: What the chewing (or creeping) locust [one that is not yet winged] left the swarming locust has eaten, and what the swarming locust has left the devouring [or crawling] locust has eaten, and what the crawling locust left the consuming locust has eaten.

Notice, there are four successive plagues of locusts that have swept across the country. Then in verse 15 he warns about another locust plague that is coming: For the day of the Lord is at hand. It shall come as a destruction from the Almighty.

In other words, there is another one coming, and it is described in the verses that follow. It is called "the day of the Lord" - a judgment, a fifth locust plague. The Lord then appeals to the people to turn back to Him.

In Joel 2:12: "Yet even now," says the Lord, "turn to Me with all your heart and with fasting and with weeping and with mourning. Rend your heart and not your garments. Turn to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness, and He has pity and will turn from doing evil."

Notice verse 20: "I will remove far from you that army [that is, the army of locusts] and will drive them away into the dry and barren desolate land."

By way of summary, Joel is saying that the day of the Lord is comprised of successive judgments of the Lord, and it has nothing to do with the end-time judgment. Later on in the book Joel turns from those days of the Lord to latter days.

In chapter 2 verse 28: "And it shall come to pass afterwards that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh. Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions."

That was fulfilled at Pentecost according to Acts 2. But in verse 30 [of Joel chapter 2]: "And I will give wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood and fire and pillars of smoke."

That did not take place at Pentecost and therefore lies in the future. In verse 31 we read: The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and the awesome day of the Lord.

Many times when the phrase "the day of the Lord" appears in Scripture it means something which will be an immediate judgment of God. But there is also a future judgment, a great and terrible one, which

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awaits the end of the Tribulation period - "the great and the awesome day of the Lord."

Back to Ezekiel 30:3: For a day is near, even a day of the Lord is near. [Notice he describes that, verse 4] A sword shall come upon Egypt and anguish shall be upon Ethiopia when the slain shall fall in Egypt and they shall take away her abundance.

We recognize that as being the judgment of Nebuchadnezzar. Notice chapter 30:10: "I will make the multitude of Egypt to cease by the hand of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon."

So that "day of the Lord" refers to the coming invasion of Nebuchadnezzar and the destruction he will bring in the land of Egypt.

Recap: "The day of God" - that day in connection with the new heavens and the new earth.

"The day of Christ" - the day when Christ will come and we will appear before Him.

"The day of the Lord" - any time the Lord comes in judgment.

Look for the context in order to determine the meaning of that term "the day of the Lord."

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